



Monochrome Factor

Kailli Sorano

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Akira
Nikaido

Monochrome Factor Volume 1
Created By KAILI SORANO

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Monochrome Factor

Vol. 1

by Kaili Sorano



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BECAUSE
IT IS TOO
CLOSE
TO YOU,
YOU MAY
FORGET...

BECAUSE
YOU TAKE
IT FOR
GRANTED,
YOU
MAY NOT
KNOW...

...THE
TRUE
MEANING
OF YOUR
SHADOW.

YOUR SHADOW, WHICH ALWAYS FOLLOWS YOU...

...THE
DARKNESS
OF YOUR
OTHER SELF.

WHEN YOU EVER TRULY REALIZED THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR OWN SHADOW?





#001: Silver Shadow



LET'S BEGIN
TODAY'S
LESSON.



Kiriba Private High School



BE
SEATED.

EVERY-
ONE,
RISE!

BOW.



SHUINO...

COULD YOU
DO ME A
FAVOR AND
GO FIND
NIKAIDO?

W H A A A A T ? !

風



HUH?



NIKAIDO
SKIPPED
CLASS
AGAIN?





ME?!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?!

WHAT THE
HECK ARE
YOU DOING
HERE,
AYA?

A
concert?
You're
having
a live
concert?



HE'S
ASKING
AKIRA TO
JOIN HIS
BAND?!!

So Akira's
not even a
member?!

Well...
I REALLY
PREFER TO
LISTEN
TO MUSIC.

You play
guitar
pretty
well, too

YOU'RE
A GOOD
SINGER.

INTERESTED
IN BEING A
VOCALIST
FOR OUR
BAND?



THE
TEACHER
TOLD ME
TO GET THE
HABITUAL
SLACKER.

WHY?



BY THE
WAY...

AKIRA
!!

YOU'D
BETTER COME
BACK TO THE
CLASSROOM
RIGHT NOW!





TO
KILL
TIME.

THEN WHAT
DO YOU
COME TO
SCHOOL
FOR?



STOP
IT!!

A tree
here

Calm
down, all
of you

Yeah, let's
over there!

clap clap clap clap



DON'T BE
IMPRESSED
BY HIS BAD
ATTITUDE!

ONLY
AKIRA
WOULD
DO THAT.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE AKIRA
SAID THAT TO
SUZUKO, THE
DISCIPLINE
OFFICER FROM
HELL...



HEY,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
HE'S A
HERO!!

HEY,
AKIRA!

DON'T
ACT LIKE
YOU'RE
SOME
KIND OF
HERO!



Villagers?
What is
he talking
about?!

HOW
DARE
YOU
WALK
AWAY
FROM
ME?!

GOODBYE,
VILLAGERS.



NOW, I
MUST GO
DEFEAT
THE DEMON
PRINCIPAL.

LET'S
SEE
NOW...

AKIRA!!

STOP!

EXCUSE
ME.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
NOW?

IT'S GOOD
THAT I GOT
OUT OF
SCHOOL,
BUT...

I COULD
PROBABLY GO
TO A MUSIC
STORE AND
CHECK OUT
NEW CDS--

HUH?

34...









I CAME HERE
TO MEET YOU
BECAUSE I
NEED YOUR
HELP.

IT'S NICE TO
MEET YOU.
MY NAME IS
SHIROGANE.



I'M NOT SO
DUMB THAT I'D
JUST FOLLOW
ANY STRANGE
PERSON...

...OUT OF
THE BLUE.



NOPE.



THIS IS A BIT
COMPLICATED
TO EXPLAIN.
I'D LIKE TO GO
SOMEPLACE
ELSE TO TALK.



...STRANGE
PERSON?



WOULD YOU
PLEASE
COME
WITH ME?



...I AM A
SHADOW
SHAPED LIKE
A HUMAN
BEING.
WELL,
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

SIMPLY
PUT...



YOU
KNOW,
YOU HAVE
ONE TOO.

YES.

OH
MAN...



A
SHADOW
?

YES.





**I KNOW
YOU'LL
COME.**

WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK THAT I'D
COME ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE?



OF
COURSE...
...YOU'LL
COME.

I'M
TELLING
YOU...





WAKE IN
THE WORLD
IS REP
HE'S SO
CREEPY.

BETTER
STAY
HOME...

HOWDY!

...ALL
NIGHT.



9:30 P.M.

...DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS RIGHT NOW?



WHAT?

SORRY, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.



WOULD YOU GO TO THE SCHOOL WITH ME NOW?

...LEFT SOMETHING AT SCHOOL.

I...



WHY NOT ASK SOMEONE ELSE?

BUT... WHY ME?



THAT'S TRUE, BUT...



WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!

YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW, ARE YOU?

AKIRA, YOU'RE A CHRONIC SLACKER ANYWAY.

HOW
DARE
YOU?!

YOU'RE
SAYING SOME
THINGS A
DISCIPLINE
COMMITTEE
OFFICER
REALLY
SHOULDN'T...

IT'S ONLY 9:30
P.M. IT'S STILL
EARLY ENOUGH
FOR TEENAGERS TO
BE OUT. BESIDES,
I'VE HEARD THAT
JUVENILE OFFICERS
OFTEN TAKE YOU
INTO CUSTODY AT
NIGHT, FOR FIGHTING
ON THE STREET.

*So don't
tell me it's
too late for
you to go to
the school
with me!*

Hey.
hey.

WELL, YOU'RE THE KIND
OF A GUY WHO ALWAYS
HAS TOO MUCH TIME
ON HIS HANDS AND
ROAMS THE STREETS
AT NIGHT ANYWAY.
PLUS, YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO BEAT UP...

...ANY DELINQUENTS
WHO TRY TO PICK A
FIGHT ALONG THE
WAY. SO YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE
WHO MEETS ALL
THE CRITERIA.

THE
COURT...

DON'T BE
SO JUDG-
MENTAL!

LOOK, I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU
LEFT AT
SCHOOL...

...BUT
CAN'T IT
WAIT UNTIL
TOMOR-
ROW?

WELL
TODAY...

*RAWWW!
I SHOULD BE
ALL RIGHT
AS LONG
AS I MAKE
IT HOME
ON-TIME.*

W H A A A T ?

I'LL GO
WITH YOU
IF THAT'LL
MAKE YOU
HAPPY.

FINE
THEN.

Y A Y !



HURRY
UP,
WILL
YOU?

THIS
IS SO
WEIRD...



CRAP.

IT'S
ALMOST
TEN.

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU FORGOT
PUTTING IT
AWAY IN
YOUR BAG
OR SOME-
THING.

I'M
SURE
I PUT
IT IN
HERE...

THERE
IT IS.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.

*What
your really
going to do...*



WHATEVER.
YOU BIG
BABY.

*I can't
get to
sleep
without
it, you
see.*

MY
STUFFED
DRAGON!

NOW
THAT YOU
FOUND
IT, WE'D
BETTER GET
OUT OF--







I AM THE
ONE WHO
GOT YOU TO
COME HERE...



?!?



WELL,
AS I
ALREADY
TOLD
YOU...



I
WANT AN
EXPLANA-
TION!



YOU
SEE?



I'M GOING
TO SHOW
YOU ALL
ABOUT
WHAT THE
SHADOW
IS.



Refused...



THIS
STRANGE
CREATURE
IS CALLED A
KOKUCHI.

IT'S ONE
OF THE
SHADOW
CREATURES.



...YOU'LL BE
DRAGGED INTO THE
SHADOW WORLD.



DON'T GO
BACK ANY
FARTHER.

OOPS.

...

YOU'LL BE
SAFE AS
LONG AS
YOU STAY
INSIDE THE
BARRIER I
CREATED.
BUT ONCE
YOU STEP
OUTSIDE
OF IT...

AROUND THIS
TIME OF DAY,
THE BOUNDARY
BETWEEN THE TWO
WORLDS BECOMES
UNSTABLE DUE TO
A CHANGE IN THE
MAGNETIC FIELD.

OR...

...DID YOU
WANT TO BE
EATEN UP BY
THE KOKUCHI?

YOU
SHOULD BE
CAREFUL.

THEY
ARE VERY
DANGEROUS.

WH-
WHAT?

BUT THEY ARE
EXTREMELY
VICIOUS TO THE
PEOPLE OF
THIS SIDE'S
WORLD.

THEY WILL
ATTACK HUMANS
INDISCRIMIN-
ATELY.

BASICALLY,
THEY DON'T
HAVE A WILL
OF THEIR
OWN.



TO BE
MORE
SPECIFIC,
AND--

SIMPLY
PUT, YES.



YOU'RE
SAYING...

...THAT
I HAVE
TO FIGHT
CREATURES
LIKE THEM?

**NO
WAY!!**



...TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF ME FOR
NO GOOD
REASON!!

WHY DON'T
YOU GO FIND
SOMEONE
ELSE,
SOMEONE
WHO LOVES
TO FIGHT?

I HATE
WHEN
SOMEONE
TRIES...



GAHMIT



?!



HEY,
DON'T GO
OUTSIDE
THE
BARRIER!



...SOFT,
LIKE A
SPONGE...

WHAT
IS
THIS?!

THE
GROUND
IS...



I'D BETTER
GET THE NECK
OUT OF HERE
AS FAST AS
I CAN.

I NEED
TO GET
OFF THE
SCHOOL
GROUNDS
NOW--



CRAP...



GET
BACK
INSIDE
THE
BARRIER
NOW.

WE WON'T
BE ABLE TO
DO ANYTHING
IF YOU GET
COMPLETELY
SUBMERSED
IN THE
SHADOW...



ANYWAY,
I SHOULD
GO BACK
OVER
THERE...



WHAT
THE--?!!

3/6

WHY
AM I IN
WATER
ALL OF
A SUD-
DEN?



?!





DON'T
CAUSE
SO MUCH
TROUBLE
HERE...

...
PLEASE.

BOY...



SWAH!!



?!!

WHO'D
WANT TO BE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?!



THERE'S
ONLY ONE
WAY TO
HANDLE THIS
SITUATION.

BUT THIS IS
THE WORST
SCENARIO I
COULD HAVE
POSSIBLY
IMAGINED!



SIGN A
CONTRACT
WITH ME AND
BECOME
A SHADOW
YOURSELF.



**THEN
YOU'D
RATHER
DIE?!**



THAT'S
WHY YOU
GOT INTO
TROUBLE
TONIGHT.
IT'S YOUR
OWN FAULT.

AND NOW
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
YOURSELF
INTO A SITU-
ATION WHERE
YOUR ONLY
CHOICE IS
TO BECOME
A SHADOW!

I MUST SAY
THAT YOU'RE
HOPELESS.

YOU
ALWAYS
MAKE THE
SITUATION
WORSE.







SEED
SLEEPING
INSIDE...

OPEN...

I AM THE
SHADOW
OF ALL
THINGS
IN THIS
UNIVERSE.

I AM THE
TUNER OF
HEAVEN
AND
EARTH.



BLACK
FLAME
BLOWING
FROM OUT
OF THAT
PLACE...



ENGRAVE
THE SEAL
OF THE TRUE
DARKNESS...







YOU
LOOK...

...PRETTY
GOOD.









JUST STOP
PREACHING
NOW.

WHATEVER
YOU SAY.

PHEW.



HE WAS
MOVING
MORE
THAN I
WAS...

BUT
WHY
--?!

WE
FINALLY
FINISHED
THEM ALL
OFF.

...BUT
HE ISN'T
EVEN
OUT OF
BREATH!

Has a
monster!

What a
beautiful
morning!

They kept fighting until dawn.



IS
THAT
SO?

BASICALLY,
IT SHOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THEM TO
GO OUTSIDE
THEIR OWN
WORLD.

THE BOUNDARY
WAS ALWAYS
STRONG BECAUSE
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN THE
OPPOSITE
WORLDS WAS
STABLE. SO
NOTHING FROM
EITHER WORLD
INVADED THE
OTHER.



...GIVES
ME THE
CREEPS.

THINKING
ABOUT
THOSE
CREATURES
ROAMING
MY SCHOOL
AT NIGHT...

I'm
bored.



YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT THE
KONCHAI?

IT IS
ABNORMAL
TO SEE
SHADOW
CREATURES
ROAMING
ABOUT
IN THIS
WORLD.



AND
IT HAS
TO BE
ME FOR
SOME
REASON?

BUT THE
BALANCE
BETWEEN
THE TWO
WORLDS
HAS BEEN
DISRUPTED.

I WANT
YOU TO
HELP ME
RESTORE
THE
BALANCE.



...IT
SOUNDS
LIKE IT'S
WORTH DOING.
AND I DO HAVE
TOO MUCH TIME
ON MY HANDS
ANYWAY.

ALL
RIGHT...

IT'S NOT
A MATTER
OF HAVING
A REASON
OR NOT
HAVING
ONE.

IT
MUST
BE
YOU.



I
WILL
HELP
YOU.

THANK
YOU.

EA?

YOU
CAN'T
GO
BACK.

BY
THE
WAY...

SHESHAKE--
THAT'S YOUR
NAME, ISN'T?

WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME
NOW?

I'M NOT
GOING
TO STAY
LIEE THIS
FOREVER,
RIGHT?

HOW
DO I GO
BACK TO
BEING
HUMAN
AGAIN?

My shadow
hasn't left my
body yet.
In fact, that
was it's black
it looks kind
of strange.

▲ We haven't noticed his eyes have turned shadow-colored, too.

W
H
A
T
?!!

I SAID,
YOU CAN'T
GO BACK
TO BEING
HUMAN.

AND BY THE
WAY, NOW
THAT YOU'RE
A SHADOW,
ORDINARY
PEOPLE CAN
NO LONGER
SEE YOU.

Then...
They can't
see me?
You didn't
tell me
that!!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
NOW?

You
mean
I can't
even
go home?



HUH?

I
MEAN...



TO BE
HONEST,
I DIDN'T
EXPECT
THIS TO
HAPPEN.

NO.
THIS IS
A BIG
PROB-
LEM,
ISN'T
IT?



...DO
YOU
MEAN?

WH-
WHAT...



THAT
WAY, YOU
COULD HAVE
CONTINUED
TO LEAD
A NEAR-
NORMAL
LIFE, LIKE
OTHER
HUMANS.

...IF YOU HAD
TRUSTED ME
FROM THE
BEGINNING...

...I
WOULD HAVE
TAKEN YOU TO
SOMEONE WHO
COULD HAVE
OFFICIALLY
SIGNED
YOU TO THE
CONTRACT.

What?



BUT
YOU DIDN'T
EVEN GIVE
ME A CHANCE
TO TELL YOU.
YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN TRUST
ME AT FIRST.

YOU
DIDN'T
TELL ME
THAT!!

TH-THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU LOOK
SO WEIRD!!

More
importantly,
you do
something!

YES,
YES...

DO YOU
WANT TO
DIE?

Be
serious
now!

...LEAVING
A NOTE
AT HOME
THAT SAYS
"DON'T TRY
TO FIND
ME"?

NOW
ABOUT...



#002: Shin



HEY,
AKIRA.

WAKE
UP.



WHAT
PERIOD
IS IT
NOW?

At?

COME
ON, IT'S
ALREADY
LUNCHTIME.



I'M STILL
SLEEPY...



HEY,
KENGO.

Give me back
my book. It's
just bright!



WELL...

I SHOULD PROBABLY SAY I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT...

I THOUGHT IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO COME TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING. AND THEN YOU SLEPT FROM FIRST PERIOD UNTIL NOW.

WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU STAY UP LATE LAST NIGHT OR SOMETHING?



IS SOMETHING WRONG?



OH?

ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.



NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

YEAH.



IT ALL STARTED ABOUT SEVEN HOURS AGO...



LISTEN
CAREFULLY.

THIS WORLD
AND THE OTHER
WORLD EXIST
LIKE MIRROR
IMAGES, WITH
THE TWO SIDES
DIVIDED BY A
BOUNDARY.

THE
OTHER
SIDE
IS THIS
WORLD'S
SHADOW.

I WAS
TRANS-
FORMED
INTO
SOMETHING
INHUMAN.

WHAT?!

EXPLAIN?

YOUR
SO-CALLED
DOPPEL-
GANGER.



FOR YOU
TO HAVE A
STABLE EXIST-
ENCE IN THIS
WORLD, YOU
NEED YOUR
SHADOW TO
EXIST OVER IN
THE SHADOW
WORLD...

NO
WAY!

It turned
into sand.

YOUR
DOPPELGANGER
CEASED TO
EXIST WHEN YOU
SANK INTO THE
SHADOW WORLD
LAST NIGHT.



IT'S A
SHADOW
PERSON,
LIKE ME.

A
SHIN?



WITH-
OUT YOUR
DOFFEL-
GANGER,
YOU CANNOT
EXIST IN THIS
WORLD.

THE
ONLY WAY
TO SAVE
YOU IS TO
TRANSFORM
YOU INTO
A SHIN.



UNBELIEV-
ABLE...

BUT SINCE
THE SHIN DOES
NOT BELONG
TO THIS WORLD,
ITS EXISTENCE
IS EXTREMELY
OBSCURE. SO
OBSCURE THAT
ORDINARY HUMANS
CANNOT SEE SHIN.



R...
REALLY...

But...

...WHILE IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO
GO BACK TO
BEING HUMAN
PERMANENTLY, IT'S
POSSIBLE TO DO
IT TEMPORARILY.



THE SHIN IS A
PURE SHADOW
ENTITY AND
DOES NOT
REQUIRE A
DOFFELGANGER
TO EXIST.

SO ONCE
YOU BECOME
A SHIN, YOU
WON'T PERISH
WITHOUT A
DOFFEL-
GANGER.



I USED ONE MYSELF WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE TO MEET YOU.

THIS EXCELLENT TEMPORARY DOPPELGÄNGER WILL LET YOU HAVE A STABLE EXISTENCE IN THIS WORLD, JUST BY PUTTING IT ON.

Is that it? Have to be so stupid-looking?



ALL YOU NEED IS A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR LOST DOPPELGÄNGER.

SHUN NAKA



So, looks like

INSTANT DOPPELGÄNGER!

So, looks like

ARE YOU LIKE A CAT-SHAPED ROBOT WHO COMES FROM THE FUTURE OR SOMETHING?



Come on.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DANGEROUS LIKE THAT.

Mr. Deromaster.

By the way,

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY LETHAL WEAPONS I COULD USE TO KILL A WEIRD, GRAY-HAIRED GUY WHO'S BEEN TAGGING ALONG AND BOTHERING ME SINCE YESTERDAY?



OH, ONE MORE THING...



I STEP ON IT? THAT'S A STRANGE WAY TO PUT IT ON.

JUST STEP ON IT.



I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT THEN, SINCE AT LEAST I CAN BECOME HUMAN AGAIN.

...? HOW DO I USE THIS, ANYWAY?



VERY WELL
THEN...I'LL
BE YOUR
SHADOW
INSTEAD.

GRAB!
IT CAME
OFF AS I
SPOKE!!

GIVE
ME A
DECENT
ONE,
WILL
YOU?

POP!

AND THAT'S...



IS THIS ONE
DEFECTIVE
OR SOME-
THING?

BE CAREFUL.
IT COMES
OFF EASILY
IF YOU MAKE
UNNECESSARY
MOVEMENTS.

Shirogane
being
Akira's
shadow.



THEY
NOW HE
ENDED
UP TO-
GETHER.



I WISH YOU
COULD SAY I
HAVE A LOT
ON MY MIND
RIGHT NOW.

HEY,
AKIRA.



LOOKS
LIKE
NOBODY
CAN SEE
HIM, BUT
NOT

ding
dong
ding
dong

ALTHOUGH
IT'S
TEMPORARY,
I'VE
GONE
TO
THE
HUMAN
FOR
NOW.



DO YOU
WANT TO
ASK MY
SISTER TO
HELP YOU?

YOU SAID
YOU'RE
POSSESSED
BY A
GHOST?

HUH?



SHE CAN
DO SIMPLE
THINGS LIKE
EXORCISING A
GHOST. SHE'D
BE GLAD TO
HELP YOU.

YOU
SEE...

MY SISTER
HAS SOME
PARANORMAL
ABILITY.



YOUR
SISTER?

Why
her?

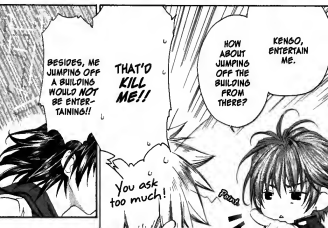


YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
JUST TOLD
ME YOU'RE
POSSESSED
BY A GHOST!

What?
??!

Huh
?!

THERE'S NO
SUCH THING
AS GHOSTS...
HEY, ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?



BESIDES, ME
JUMPING OFF
A BUILDING
WOULD NOT
BE ENTERTAINING!!

THAT'D
KILL
ME!!

HOW
ABOUT
JUMPING
OFF THE
BUILDING
FROM
THERE?

KENSO,
ENTERTAIN
ME.

You ask
too much!

AKIRA
NIKAIDO
AND KENGO
ASAMURA!

EDUCATIONAL
GUIDANCE
!!

WHAT
THE--?!!

AFTER-
NOON
CLASSES
HAVE
ALREADY
STARTED!

Aya

HOW LONG
A LUNCH
BREAK ARE
YOU GUYS
TAKING?

BRING
YOUR-
SELVES
AND TAKE
YOUR
PUNISH-
MENT!

BOTH
OF
YOU!

YOU'RE
GETTING
AFTER-
SCHOOL
RETENTION.

YOU SKIPPED
SCHOOL
ENTIRELY
YESTERDAY AND
MISSED ALL
THE CLASSES
THIS MORNING.
TODAY, YOU'LL
HAVE TO PAY
FOR THAT.



You cowardly loud voice made me follow your resistant order!

...DO YOU WANT ME TO DIE?!

VIKES...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, VIKES?!



KENSO

I'LL HANDLE THINGS HERE. JUST JUMP OVER THE FENCE AND RUN AWAY!!

SOUCHA!



I'LL HELP THE REST OF THE WORLD TO KNOW AND REMEMBER WHAT A GREAT GUY YOU WERE... IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

YOU TRAITOR !!



WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THAT MAKE?

DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO JUMP OFF THE BUILDING THAT MUCH?

LET'S SPLIT UP AND RUN IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS TO CONFUSE ME.

I'LL RUN FORWARD, AND YOU RUN TOWARD THE FENCE ...



DON'T MONKEY AROUND WITH ME ANY MORE!

Push



I'M
SICK AND
TIRED OF
ATTENDING
BORING
CLASSES...

ARE
YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THIS?



HUH,
NIKAIDO?!

DID YOU
JUST SAY
MY CLASS
IS TOO
BORING TO
ATTEND?

MS. CHIHARA...
I DIDN'T REALIZE
IT WAS *YOUR*
CLASS WE
WERE HAVING
RIGHT NOW.



No one can figure him out! Adria

IT'S
RIDIC-
ULOUS

...

WHILE IT'S TRUE
THAT I'VE BEEN
TRANSFORMED INTO
SOME STRANGE
CREATURE...
AHH, I CAN
STILL GO BACK
TO BEING HUMAN
WHenever I WANT

MAYBE
I'M TAKING
THIS WHOLE
THING TOO
SERIOUSLY.

...BUT
MAYBE...

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
I'LL HAVE TO
GO THROUGH
OR WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN...

...I'VE
BEEN
TAKING
IT TOO
SERIOUSLY.



bam

bam

What's going on?

What's going on?

What's going on?

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

THAT WASN'T ME.

THE WINDOW BROKE ALL OF A SUDDEN...

What's going on?





YOU'LL
BE
FINE.

...SO I DID. BUT
NOW I'LL HAVE
KILLED MYSELF
JUMPING FROM
THE FIFTH
FLOOR.

YOU
SAID
JUMP...

I'M
TELLING
YOU...



THAT'S BE-
CAUSE YOU
DON'T HAVE
A GOPPEL-
GANSER AND
ARE THEREFORE
FREE OF HUMAN
LIMITATIONS

AS A SHIN,
YOU CAN
JUMP LIKE A
SUPERHERO.

I SHOULD
HAVE
SAID
THAT
I CAN
JUMP
WITHOUT
A
GANSER.



SHIN
APPEARS
FROM

WASH!



AND I
WONDER
WHY
YOU'RE
SO
CALM...

...given the
situation

I WONDER
HOW IT MADE
IT INTO THIS
WORLD. IT'S
NOWHERE NEAR
THE TIME THAT
THE BOUNDARY
BECOMES
DISTORTED.

BY THE
WAY,
WE HAVE
TO TAKE
CARE
OF THAT
FIRST.



What?

PER-
HAPS...

...
WHAT?



TREVEN-
DOUS
DAMAGE...



SUCH A BIG
DOUGH CAN'T
NORMALLY PASS
THROUGH THE GAP
CREATED BY A
DISTORTION OF
THE BOUNDARY.

IT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR IT TO
COME INTO
THIS WORLD,
UNLESS THE
BOUNDARY IS
TREMEN-
DOUSLY
DAMAGED.



...SO IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT IT
DAMAGED
THE BOUN-
DARY...

YESTERDAY,
WE HAD A BIG
BATTLE ON
THE ALREADY
FRAGILE
BOUNDARY...



PANICKING
WON'T
HELP.





YOU
SHOULD HANDLE
DIFFICULT
SITUATIONS
IN A CALM,
LEVELHEADED
MANNER.



→
First, many things he wants to say, but doesn't know where to start.



BY THE WAY, THAT'S A COMBAT-TYPE KOKUCHI, WHICH IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN THE PATROL-TYPE WE FOUGHT YESTERDAY. SO BE VERY CAREFUL.

I'M GOING TO TRY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGED BOUNDARY. YOU TRY TO KEEP THE KOKUCHI FROM ATTACKING PEOPLE.

I GET IT.

Why don't you go ahead and leave?



HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THAT FROM A TEACHER BEFORE?



WHY
DON'T
YOU
SHUT
UP AND
GO?!

HA
HA
HA
!

NOBODY CAN
SEE YOU ANYWAY,
SO YOU CAN GO
WILD AS MUCH AS
YOU WANT.
♡

Oh,
by the
way...



I GUESS
SCHOOL WILL
BE CANCELED
TOMORROW...



OH,
MAN...



crash

!!





SO
STOP.

YOU'LL
GAIN
NOTHING
BY
KILLING
HIM.



WHERE
DID
AKIRA
GO?

AKIRA
AAA?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE'S
STILL
HERE.

Well so
confused



I'D
BETTER
GET HIM
OUT OF
THE ROOM
FIRST.





UROWN...



IT
DOESN'T
SEEM
DAMAGED
AT ALL...

AGAIN!
NO MATTER
HOW HARD
I KICK IT, I
FEEL LIKE
I'M HITTING
AIR OR
SOMETHING





THIS THING'S
BODY IS LIKE
LIQUID...AND
THE IMPACT
OF MY BLOWS
IS EASILY
ABSORBED.

I
SEE.

THIS IS
WHY IT
FEELS
LIKE I'M
HITTING
AIR.

FREE FALLING.



DO
SOMETHING,
SHIROGANE!!

OH
BOY.



THAT'S WHY
I CAN'T
DO IT ANY
HARM!



BUT
THEN HOW
SHOULD I
DEFEAT THIS
MONSTER?





MASTER!

LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'VE
GOT
A BIG
PROBLEM
HERE.

I FELT
SOMETHING
STRANGE
IN THE AIR
WHEN I WAS
PASSING
THE SCHOOL
ON MY WAY
HOME FROM
SHOPPING.

OH
DEAR.

LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'RE
IN SOME
TROUBLE.



OH!



....I CAN
HELP YOU
CLOSE IT.

IF YOU
WISH...



thump

thud



CRAP

WHOA!



OUR
HANDS
ARE THE
HEALERS
OF
ZERO...



LIGHT MUST
STAY IN
LIGHT, AND
DARK IN
DARK.

...THE
ABSOLUTE
MIRROR
WHICH
DIVIDES
HEAVEN AND
EARTH.



SEAL!



RETURN TO
YOUR OWN
MASTER.









LOOKS
LIKE...

...YOU'RE
PRETTY
BADLY
HURT.



LET ME
TAKE A
LOOK
AT YOUR
WOUND.

I THINK I
MIGHT NOT
BE OKAY.

Dreepy.



SHIRO-
GANE...

ARE
YOU
OKAY?

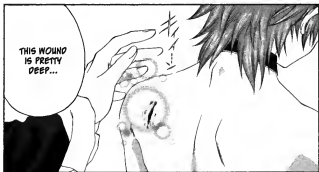




MAYBE I...



...HAVE GOTTEN
MYSELF INTO
SOMETHING
EXTREMELY
DANGEROUS
AFTER ALL.



THIS WOUND
IS PRETTY
DEEP...



MASTER?



NO
KIDDING...
IT HURTS
SO BAD...

I can't let
anybody
hurt me
like this.

YOU HAVE
A PENE-
TRATING
INJURY.

I'M NOT
CAPABLE
OF FIXING IT
COMPLETELY.



I THINK
WE'RE
GOING
TO NEED
MASTER'S
HELP.

Squand...



#008: Aging



WELL, IT'S
BETTER THAN
GETTING NO
TREATMENT,
OKAY?

SCHOOL IS
GANGELED
TODAY, BUT
I'M SO BADLY
INJURED THAT
I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING.

THIS
SUCKS...



HUH?
OF
COURSE
I WON'T
FORGET.

SHOULDER
INJURIES ASIDE,
DON'T FORGET
I STILL NEED
YOU TO EXPLAIN
THIS WHOLE
THING TO ME.

BY
THE
WAY



I'LL
EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
ONCE YOUR
WOUND IS
TREATED.

BESIDES,
IT'LL
PROBABLY
BE EASIER
FOR YOU TO
UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION
ONCE YOU
MEET HIM.









*Note: In Japan, the owner of a bar is often referred to as its master.







WHAT SOME
PEOPLE
PERCEIVE AS
GHOSTS ARE
ACTUALLY
SHIN AND
KOKUCHI.



I KNOW
SOME
PEOPLE CAN
SEE GHOSTS
WHILE
OTHERS
CAN'T.

BUT SHIN
AREN'T
GHOSTS,
ARE THEY?



OF COURSE,
PEOPLE
DON'T KNOW
THE TRUTH OF
WHAT SHIN
AND KOKUCHI
ARE, SO
THEY SIMPLY
CALL THEM
"GHOSTS" OR
"SPECTERS."



WELL,
GHOSTS AND
SHIN ARE
RELATED.



IF YOU SHOW
HIM THE POWER
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT, IT MIGHT
BE EASIER
FOR HIM TO
COMPREHEND.



AND THE ABILITY
TO SEE THEM
IS GENERALLY
CALLED A
PSYCHIC OR
SUPERNATURAL
POWER.



THEN...

I'LL GO
AHEAD AND
FIX HIS
WOUND TO
SHOW
HIM WHAT
I CAN DO.



THIS MIGHT
BE A LITTLE
BIT PAINFUL,
BUT TRY TO
SUCK IT UP.



HOW
DID YOU
FIGURE
OUT I...

I CAN
SMELL
THE
BLOOD.

COME
ON. SIT
DOWN
HERE.



HUH?
OH...
OKAY...
For
what?



GOOD
LUCK.



WHAT
KIND OF
TREATMENT
IS THIS?



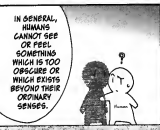
...WITH
SOMETHING
SIMILAR TO
THE POWER OF
SUPERNATURAL
POWERS?



DO YOU'RE
GOING TO
PUT MY
WOUND...

OUCH!!







HOW
COULD
I? I'M IN
PAIN!!

...AH.

ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO ME?

AN
ADEPT HAS
A BROADER
RECOGNITION
RANGE
THAN A NOR-
MAL HUMAN
BEING, AND
IS THEREFORE
ABLE TO
SEE SHIN.



I'M
DONE.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
UPSET
ABOUT?
YOU
JACK-
ASS!!

I'm going
to kill you!!

YOU'RE
SO RUDE.
I'M TRYING
TO EXPLAIN
THINGS
FOR YOU.



I WANNA
KILL THEM
BOTH
RIGHT
NOW!!

UGH...

NO
PROB-
LEM.

ANY
TIME.

THANKS,
MASTER.

I
SEE...

I DON'T
WANT YOU
USING IT ON
ME AGAIN,
THOUGH.

THAT'S MY
POWER.

HUH?

TAKE A
LOOK
AT YOUR
WOUND
NOW.

IT'S COM-
PLETELY
HEALED...

BUT I
THOUGHT
THERE WERE
QUITE A FEW
PEOPLE WHO
COULD SEE
GHOSTS.

NOT
EXACTLY.

THERE
ARE ONLY
A FEW
ADEPTS
IN THIS
WORLD.

SO PEOPLE
WHO CAN
SEE GHOSTS
ARE ALL
ADEPTS?

SEE,
THAT'S THE
PROBLEM.



EARLIER,
I TOLD
YOU THAT
HUMANS
CANNOT
SEE US.



NO WAY...



THAT'S
BECAUSE
THE SHADOW
WORLD
HAS BEEN
EXPAND-
ING...

I TOLD YOU
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN THE
TWO WORLDS
HAS BEEN
DISRUPTED,
REMEMBER?

BUT TO
BE MORE
PRECISE...
IT'S NOT THAT
THEY CAN'T
SEE US...

...IT'S
THAT THEY
MUSTN'T.

...AND
EATING
AWAY THE
WORLD
ON THIS
SIDE.



ALTHOUGH
IT'S GRADUAL,
STEADILY
THE WORLD
OF LIGHT...

...IS BEING
ERODED
BY THE
WORLD OF
DARKNESS.

THE
REASON
WHY MORE
KOKUCHI
ARE SW-
TERING
THIS
WORLD
...

...WHY THE
BOUNDARY IS
SO EASILY
DISTORTED...

—AND WHY
THE NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
WHO AREN'T
ADEPTS BUT
WHO CAN SEE
KOKUCHI IS INCREAS-
ING...

...IS THAT
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN THE
TWO WORLDS
HAS BEEN
DISRUPTED.



shiver...



I CAME
A LITTLE
EARLY
TODAY!
♡

HELLOOOO,
MASTER!





WHOA!!



ASA-
MURA?



TELL
ME!!

WHO
WAS THAT
GOOD-
LOOKING
GUY?!!



Thank you
GODDIE

YAY!
♡

I
MEAN...

HE
WOULDN'T
COME
HERE
AFTER
THE
BAR
OPENS,
THOUGH.

E
E
K!

THEN I'LL
PROBABLY
GET TO
SEE HIM
AGAIN.
♡



WHO,
YOU
ASK?

DOES
HE
COME
HERE
OFTEN
?

I
GUESS
HE
MIGHT
...



OH! THAT
YOUNGER,
BROWN-
HAired
BOY IS
CUTE,
TOO...

...BUT I'M
MORE INTO
THE GRAY-
HAired
GUY!



BECAUSE
HE'S STILL
A MINOR.

He doesn't
even have
to drink

WHY
NOT
?!



SHIRO-
SANE
TOLD ME
AKIRA
IS STILL
IN HIGH
SCHOOL.

SH?

BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU WEREN'T
INTERESTED
IN YOUNGER
MEN.









AKIRA

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME HERE TODAY, BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.

YOU KNOW, I'M SO HAPPY...

† Obviously, Akira thought his/her friends wouldn't.

YOU AND I'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE COME OVER TO MY HOUSE.

† Obviously, he's been waiting Akira to come over, but he's been rejected over and over.



YOU WANT TO PLAY A TWO-PLAYER GAME?



NOT REALLY.

I just want to play.

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?



OKAY, THEN.

BUT THAT'S AN RPG...

I'm not playing with you.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ENJOY THIS GAME WITH ME?



**BUT
THAT
WOULD
BE TOO
SAD!!**

**HERE. YOU
PRETEND
TO BE THE
ENEMY
CHARACTER.**

*And I'll tell you
right away!*

2P controller

Sanji



**HEY,
KENGO...**

**SINCE MOM
AND DAD ARE
OUT OF TOWN
ON VACATION,
HOW ABOUT WE
HAVE SOME
INSTANT FOOD
FOR DINNER
TONIGHT?**



I...

**I'M
SORRY.**

**FORGET IT?
WHY DON'T
YOU STOP
COMPLAINING,
THEN?**

RUN?!



**MY
HOUSE'S
HOME.**

**I'M
HOOOME.**

AAAAAAAAH!!



WERE YOU
AT A BAR
CALLED AGING
AROUND FIVE
TODAY?

うわー

YOU!!

YES. I
WAS.

WHOA!

?

I've been
trying
all day to
make
people
today!

SIS?
WHAT
ARE YOU
SHOUTING
ABOUT?



ARE YOU
ONE OF
KENGO'S
FRIENDS?

Y-YOU...
COULD
SAY
THAT....

WH...
YOU
SHOULD
RESPECT
HIS
PERSONAL
SPACE.

JUDGING
BY THE
FACT THAT
YOU'RE
HERE....

I
KNEW
IT!!

THIS
MUST BE...

...MY
DES-
TINY!!

HEH, YOUR
SISTER
IS A TRIP.

YEP, SHE'S
CRAZY.

Ha
Ha
Ha

WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?

ONE OF THE
GOOD-LOOKING
MEN I SAW AT
THE FAIR TODAY
IS MY BROTHER'S
FRIEND!







WUP,
THERE'S
NO MIS-
TAKING IT.
AND NOT
JUST ANY
GHOST.

I
SURE
DO!



WHY? DO
YOU SEE
A GHOST
AROUND
HIM OR
SOME-
THING?

YEAH.

HE
ACTUALLY
MENTIONED
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
YESTERDAY.



**IT'S A
GORGEOUS
MAN!!**

- Mayu's vision -



HE'S WAY
TOO CUTE
TO BE IN-
TANGIBLE!

Such a
wastell!

WHY
DOES
HE HAVE
TO BE A
GHOST?!

ARRGH!

If only I'd met
him when he was
alive...

UGH! COULD
YOU GET
ANY MORE
SELFISH?

...AND
THEN
I'LL
SHOW
UP,
AND....!

THEN HE'LL
BE ALL CON-
FUSED AND
DEFENSE-
LESS...
NOWHERE
TO GO...

RIGHT!
I HAVE
A PLAN!

SIS!!

I'LL
CONDUCT
A PURI-
FICATION
RITUAL AND
EXORCISE
HIM FROM
AKIRA!

WAKE
UP,
SIS!!

COME ON.
YOU ALWAYS
TOLD ME
HOW MUCH
YOU HATED
BEING POS-
SESSED BY
GHOSTS.



I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT...

That's just
what you
need to
believe

...YEAH,
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT AKEIRA
SEEMS TO BE
DOING JUST
FINE WITH IT.

AND HOW
COULD SUCH
A GOOD-
LOOKING
GHOST BE THAT
HARMFUL?!



OKAY.
SOUNDS
GOOD.

FOR NOW,
I'LL GO
GET SOME
TEA AND
SNACKS!

WELL,
LET'S JUST
WAIT AND
SEE FOR
A WHILE.



I'M
GOING TO
MAKE...

...THE
BEST
TEA
EVER.



I COULD TELL
FROM HER
REACTION AT THE
BAR THAT SHE
CAN SEE SHIN.

HAH?

LOOKS
LIKE SHE
CAN SEE
ME.



DANGEROUS?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



I'M AFRAID
THE EFFECT
OF THE SHA-
DON WORLD
IS INCREASING
EVERY DAY,
AND NOW THE
SITUATION IS
GETTING VERY
DANGEROUS.

I DON'T
THINK
SHE'S AN
ADEPT,
THOUGH.



LET ME
PUT IT THIS
WAY. IF
THINGS GO
WRONG...
...THIS
WORLD
WILL BE
ENGULFED
BY THE DARK
WORLD.





BUT...

WELL....

DO YOU
THINK
SO?

I MEAN,
EVERY TIME
WE HAVE
A FIGHT,
SHE ALWAYS
BEATS ME UP
REAL BAD.

YOU AND
YOUR
SISTER
ARE
PRETTY
CLOSE,
HUH?



Inner complex

Hehe...

I
GUESS
YOU
COULD
SAY...



I JUST
SAID YOU
HAD A
SISTER
COMPLEX.

WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?!

*You were dead
serious
when you
said that.*

YOU'RE
NOT SUP-
POSED TO
SAY THINGS
LIKE THAT
WITH SUCH
A HAPPY
SMILE.



...WE'RE
EXTREMELY
CLOSE.









I THOUGHT
KENSO AND
I WERE
REALLY GOOD
FRIENDS!



I NEVER
EXPECTED
...
...SOME-
THINGS LIKE
THAT COULD
HAPPEN.

BY
THE
WAY...

NOW THAT
YOU'RE
HERE,
I WANT
YOU TO
MEET MY
FAMILY.



ONE
SPOOKY
NIGHT...

I WAS
INVITED TO
KENSO'S
PLACE FOR
THE FIRST
TIME.

I'M
HAPPY TO
BE HERE,
TOO.

I'M SO
GLAD YOU
CAME TO
MY HOUSE,
AKIRA.

...MY
SISTER.

AKIRA, LET
ME INTRO-
DUCE...

LET
THE



OH...

YOUR
...
SISTER
...?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

...
MY...
GOD.



THAT'S
TOO
SCARY
!!!!

HER BACK
BURST OPEN
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...

...AND
SOMETHING
THAT LOOKED
LIKE A BLACK
LIZARD CAME
OUT OF HER!!



Tsk...

DON'T JUST
MAKE UP A
BIG LIE! YOU
WASTED TWO
PRECIOUS
PAGES!

You
might
confuse
the
reader!

Do you think my family
is a bunch of spooky
monsters or something?!

NOT ONLY
WAS THE WAY
YOU CAME TO
MY HOUSE ALL
WRONG, BUT
SO WERE THE
DESCRIPTIONS
OF OUR HOUSE
AND CLOTHING!



#004 Corrosion









WHAT
IN THE
WORLD?

SHE'S
MORE THAN
JUST FOG-
GASSED!



OH,
COME
ON.



DON'T
BE SO
MEAN!

DO YOU
HATE PLAYING
WITH ME?



TOO MUCH
ENERGY FROM
THE DARK WORLD
ACCUMULATED IN
THE BODY MAKES
THAT PERSON
SUSCEPTIBLE
TO KOUKUCHI
INFESTATION.

PEOPLE WITH
SO-CALLED
PSYCHIC ABIL-
ITIES TEND TO
RETAIN POWER
FROM THE
DARK WORLD.



SHE'S
BEEN
INFESTED
BY KO-
KUCHI.

HUH?

BE
CAREFUL,
AKIRA.



...
MEOW!!

ONCE
INFESTED BY
A KOKUCHI,
THE VICTIM
LOSES THEIR
PERSONAL
CONSCIOUS-
NESS...

...RELEASING
CONTROL
OF THEIR
DESTRUCTIVE
INSTINCTS AND
DESIRES.



SIS!!



SALT??!!



THIS IS THE
PURIFICATION
SALT MASTER
SAVE ME!











SHIRO-
GANE.

YES?

...MY
SISTER.



LET'S
SEE...

AS A SHIN,
YOU COULD
JUST TOUCH
THE KOKUCHI
INSIDE HER.



SO A
SHIN CAN
REMOVE THE
BASTARD
FROM HER,
RIGHT?

STOP
TALKING A
LOAD OF
CRAP!



THAT'S
ALL I
NEEDED
TO
KNOW!



When
you're
very
tired
and...

YOU
ARE...
CORRECT.





OH...

YOU'RE
SWEET TO
LADIES,
AREN'T
YOU?



...AND
THAT'S ALL
BECAUSE
IT HAS THE
APPEARANCE
OF A HUMAN
BEING.

IT'S SO
HARD TO
FIGHT...



CUT
L...

...TREAT A
MAN WHO'S IS
A BIT ON THE
COLD SIDE.





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

SHIRO-
GANE...

...NOT
ONLY HER,
BUT ALL OF
US IN THIS
HOUSE.

I'M AFRAID
THE DARKNESS
MIGHT END UP
ENSLUFGING...

THIS IS A
VERY SEVERE
INFESTATION...
VERY HARD
TO REMOVE
FROM HER.



SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
ONCE
MORE...

SHUT UP

IT WOULD
BE BETTER
TO KILL HER
BEFORE THAT
HAPPENS.



AND I
WILL KILL
YOU!



You backed off pretty easily this time.

THEN I WILL
WAIT UNTIL THE
VERY LAST
MINUTE.



FINE.



THE BEST WAY TO
DO THIS IS TO TALK
ABOUT PLEASANT
MEMORIES FROM
THE PAST OR ABOUT
SOMETHING THAT
FASCINATES HER.

MEMO-
RIES?



OUR ONLY HOPE
IS TO BRING
HER BACK BY
STIMULATING HER
CONSCIOUSNESS,
WHICH IS BEING
SUPPRESSED BY
THE KOKUCHI.

THEN THE
KOKUCHI
WILL BE
FORCED
OUT FROM
THE INSIDE,
MAKING
IT EASY
FOR US TO
REMOVE IT.



BUT...



I'M
AFRAID...

...IF THIS IS
UNSUCCESSFUL....







...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KICK ME TO GET ME TO STOP!

YOU'D BETTER LISTEN TO ME BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING STUPID.



BRING HER CONSCIOUSNESS BACK?

WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO BRING BACK YOUR SISTER'S CONSCIOUSNESS.



NOT SO FAST.

ARGH??!!



I don't know exactly why, but it would help her.

...BUT THIS'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.

I SEE! SOME MEMORIES...

ESPECIALLY PLEASANT MEMORIES SHOULD WORK BEST.



TO DO THAT, YOU NEED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS.



YES. WE
HAD A
VERY HOT
SUMMER...

I WAS
FIVE
YEARS
OLD...



MY SISTER
AND I
WERE SO
THRILLED
TO USE
OUR
BRAND-
NEW, KING-
SIZED
SWIM
FLOAT.



BUT
WHEN I
LOOKED
DOWN,
TRYING
TO SEE
UNDER
THE
WATER...



ONE
DAY, MY
FAMILY
AND I
WENT TO
A BEAUTY
BEACH.



INSTEAD OF
HELPING ME
OUT, SHE
GRABBED MY
LEGS AND
THREW ME
UPSIDE-
DOWN.

WAW!
HAND-
STAND!



...I WAS
THROWN
OFF
BALANCE
AND FELL
IN.





I THINK YOU SHOULD STOP TALKING ABOUT IT NOW.

FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT, SHE HAD A HUGE BRUISE THAT LOOKED LIKE A MONGOLIAN SPOT**

BU
HA
HA
HA

BUT HER BUTT BONE GOT FRACTURED!!



SOME-
THING
FUNNY...
SOME-
THING
FUNNY...

YOU SHOULD TRY A MORE PLEASANT OR FUNNY MEMORY.



AM I
GAY?
You brat!

I GUESS I SHOULD STOP NOW, TOO...

I DON'T THINK SHE APPRECIATED OUR BRINGING THAT UP.



WE WENT OUT TO EAT ONE NIGHT.

THE
RESTAURANT
WAS IN THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE, SUR-
ROUNDED BY OPEN
FIELDS.

It was
good.

Yeah!



HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

*Mongolian spot: A smooth patch that looks like a bruise on the lower back.



HE USED
TO RUN OUT
IN THE
COUNTRY,
AND THERE
WAS
HARDLY ANY
OUTDOOR
LIGHT. IT
WAS VERY
DARK OUT
THERE.

MY
DAD'S A
FUNNY
BOY,
SO...



...IN THE
PARKING
LOT, HE
STARTED
CHASING
US.

SUDDENLY,
MY SISTER
BECAME
INVIS-
IBLE!



I THINK
IT'S
FUNNY,
TOO...

...BUT I
THINK YOU
MISUNDER-
STOOD
ME...

THAT
WAS
SOOOO
FUNNY!!

BUT
REALLY
SHE HAD
JUST
FALLEN
INTO A
RICE
PADDY!!

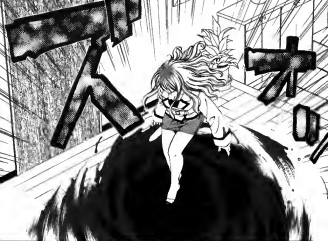
Bwa
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
!!!

Waaaaah...



GRAAAARRRR!!







THIS IS
GETTING
TOO PAN-
DEROUS!



ADIRA,
I'M SO
SORRY,
BUT...

YOUR
TIME
IS UP.



OH MY
GOD...

WE CAN'T
SAVE MY
SISTER?

NO!
SHIRO-
GANE!!



A close-up, black and white manga-style illustration of a character with long, flowing blonde hair. They are wearing a dark top hat and a dark jacket. Their eyes are large and expressive, looking slightly to the side with a faint, enigmatic smile. The background is dark and indistinct.

I HOPE
YOU WON'T
HOLD IT
AGAINST
ME.

A black and white manga-style illustration showing two characters in a dynamic, action-oriented pose. On the left, a character with long blonde hair and a light-colored jacket is leaning forward. On the right, a character with long blonde hair, wearing a dark top hat and a dark coat, is leaning back. The background is light and features some architectural lines.

I CAN'T
LET AKIRA
DIE NOW!







WHAT...?



NOW THAT
YOU'RE OUT
OF YOUR
HUMAN
HOST...

...I CAN
KILL YOU
WITH
IMPUNITY!!



SHE'S OUT,
BUT SHE
LOOKS SO
FULFILLED.

LOOK
AT
HER.



SHE
DOES
LOVE
GOOD-
LOOKING
MEN...

YOU
THINK
SO?

YOU SHOULD
HAVE JUST
APPROACHED
HER IN THE
FIRST PLACE
AND AVOIDED
ALL THIS
TROUBLE.



AKIRA
...?

OH,
COME
ON,
KENGO.



OF
COURSE
SHE REACTED
POSITIVELY
TO YOU.



NOW I
REALLY
HATE
MYSELF.

WELL,
I DID
MY
BEST.

She didn't
show any positive
reaction at all
to my theory.



REALLY?
YOU DID A
GREAT JOB
HELPING YOUR
SISTER REGAIN
CONSCIOUS-
NESS.

WHAT?



I JUST
HAPPENED
TO BE THE
ONE TO
FINISH OFF
THE JOB.



Hey!

DANCING
NAKED.

Hey!

I
DIDN'T
DO
THAT!!!



BUT
SHE WAS
DEFINITELY
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO YOU.

HA
HA
...

WHAT'D
YOU
JUST
SAY?!

Ha
ha.

YOU'VE
GOT A BONA
FIDE SISTER
COMPLEX...

...BUT HOW
COME KENGO
CAN SEE
SHIROGANE?

YOU
GUYS ARE
TALKING
NATURALLY
TO EACH
OTHER...

BY
THE
WAY
...

WHAT?

AH!

WHAT?
!

I'M
ASKING
WHY YOU
CAN SEE
HIM.

MY SIS-
TER TOLD
ME ABOUT
YOU. YOU
SURE ARE
HANDSOME.

SO...
YOUR
NAME IS
SHIRO-
GANE...

UP,
THANKS,
I
KISS.

THEY SAY IF
YOU HANG OUT
WITH PSYCHIC
PEOPLE LONG
ENOUGH,
YOU BECOME
PSYCHIC
YOURSELF!

I DON'T
KNOW WHY...
BESIDES, I
JUST STARTED
SEEING HIM
A LITTLE
WHILE AGO.

OH!
I GOT
IT!

ACTUALLY,
THIS IS MY
FIRST TIME
SEEING A
GHOST IN
PERSON.





DON'T
WORRY.

IT'LL
ONLY
TAKE A
SINGLE
BLOW.

AND I'M
BEING KIND
ENOUGH TO
WAKE YOU UP,
TO GET YOU
OUT OF THE
NIGHTMARE.

DON'T...
PLEASE!

Now
Waking



THAT'S
NOT
THE
POINT...

STAY
STILL...I'LL
MAKE IT AS
PAINLESS AS
POSSIBLE.

oooooooo!!

In the next

Monochrome Factor

The fact that Shinga, Aya, and many other ordinary people are gaining the ability to see shin and other shadow creatures indicates a serious disruption in the balance between the worlds! When a serial killer slaughtering the locals left and right turns out to be a shin himself, Shiragane and Akira learn that a sinister shadow world power is about to make its move...



In My Way



Humidity





■ Talk ■

Hi, this is Kaiti Serano. *Monochrome Factor* volume 3 is finally here!! At last... really! I'm slow at drawing, so I feel sorry for those who have been waiting for this book to come out... (sweat drop) In any case, I truly appreciate the readers who purchased a copy of this volume!!

Monochrome Factor is based on a story I had in mind when I was in high school. I made a lot of changes to the characters and time period, but the basic story plot remains the same. I was quite intense back then and had a "do-it-all-the-way" attitude...(LOL). The appearances of Shirogane and Akira, when transformed into shin, can be traced to a certain extent to the characters I made up back then. The story will reveal my personal interests as you continue to read the title...so please stay with me.

I regret that there are almost no extra pages to write a good postscript, and I am writing this in my bad handwriting. This sure is hard to read, isn't it? Despite that, thank you so much for reading this postscript.

Hope to see you in the next volume.



■ Thanks ■

Editor ... Mr. Iida
Assistants ... Muffy, Koike,
Yuka, Sui,
Mayu

...Thanks to all of you, and
sorry! I know I can be quite a
burden at times. . (sweat drop)

二海堂 糸 (ニカイドウ イト)

Akira Nikaido

Monochrome Factor
Character Profiles

1



Age: 16 years old	Birthday: December 11	Blood type: B
Height: 175 cm (5' 7")	Weight: 57 kg (126 lbs)	Shoe size: 25 cm (size 7)
Weapons: Two hunting knives. They're 21 cm (8") long and the blade is transparent.		
Hobbies Sleeping, watching movies, buying CD's, teasing Kengo, Reading (books written in English)		Special skills Guitar, piano, conversational English, fighting, sleeping all day, making unreasonable requests (of Kengo)

<i>His likes</i>	<i>His dislikes</i>
<i>Color: Black, white, red, silver</i>	<i>Color: Pink, yellow, pastels</i>
<i>Food: He says he likes "not-too-heavy" dishes, but he often doesn't know what he's talking about when it comes to food.</i>	<i>Food: Sweets (HATES sweet stuff)</i>
<i>Books: Novels (especially science fiction and mysteries)</i>	<i>Books: Self-improvement books such as "How to get rich," "How to be successful," etc.</i>
<i>Music: American and British music (hard rock, punk, electronic)</i>	<i>Music: Love songs</i>
<i>Games: Action games, music games</i>	<i>Games: RPGs (bore him easily)</i>
<i>TV: Doesn't watch TV often, but likes variety shows.</i>	<i>TV: Soap operas</i>
<i>Movies: Movies from the 70s through the 90s. Any genre, as long as it's interesting.</i>	<i>Movies: Long, boring movies</i>
<i>Animals: Felines</i>	<i>Animals: Smelly animals</i>
<i>Others: sleeping, high places, conversational English, British comedy, spring, fall</i>	<i>Others: School, teachers, kids, smoking, winter, summer, crowds, exercise, fights</i>



■ Sorano's Babbles ■

Akira, the main character, is one of the hardest to draw. My assistants tend to have a hard time with his complicated hairdo. I feel kind of sorry for them. Some of the problems with his hairdo are: 1) Although it's very soft, his hair won't flap in the wind. 2) His hair tends to be big, so when he's drawn next to a character with smaller hair, Akira tends to stand out too much. 3) Inking his hair takes a long time...and so forth. He tries to act cool (?), but he is a big cat lover. But cats don't like him for some reason, and he often gets heartbroken. He always talks in a straightforward manner that reminds me of my own sister's. He's also as arrogant as my sister. ...Does that mean my position is similar to Kengo's?



Kaili Sorano



Monochrome Factor volume 1 is finally published! It was almost a mission impossible...(in many ways). This is my very first published manga! There are a lot of other things I've never done before that I'd love to try. Next time, I hope to carry out a certain project I have in mind. (I sound so passive now...)

Akira

